(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) In order to ensure a balanced distribution of urban population and to slow down the growth of metrpolises, a Centrally sponsored scheme for the Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns was introduced in 1979 to provide infrastructure and other facilities in these towns. 235 towns were covered upto the end of the 6th Plan and 102 more towns are proposed to be covered during the 7th Plan period. Concerted efforts are being made to channelise private and public industrial investment in the viciniy of small and medium towns so that migration of population is diverted to these from going to the metropolises. In addition to the normal investments made by the State Governments to improve the civic infrastructural facilities, adequate funds are made available by negotiating appropriate urban development projects with the World Bank and DDA assistance.

Import of Fertilizers

3251. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the curent year's target for import of various fertilizers;

(b) whether the pending contracts for the import of fertilisers, and by when they are coming to an end with the details thereof indicating the country from where it is to be imported and the rate at which it is to be imported;

(c) whether it is a fact that there is already glut of indigenous production of fertilisers; and

(d) if so, the reasons for which Government still continue the imports of fertilisers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FERTILIZERS IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. PRABHU): (a) and (b) It would not be in the public interest to disclose these details.

(c) Yes, Sir. The present high stock of fertilisers is due to low off-take on account of unfavourable weather conditions in many parts of the country;

(d) The entire requirement of potassic fertiliser is met by import as ther are no known commercially viable indigenous sources of potash. Some quantities of Urea and DAP are planned to be imported during the second half of the year to meet trade/aid commitments. However, imported stocks will not be released for sale so long as the indigenous stocks can meet the entire demand, as far as possible.

Development of Agriculture in Punjab

3252. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that U. S. Department of Agriculture has given grants to Indian Scientists to develop new varieties of wheat grains;

b) if so, what is the value of the grants received;

(c) whether the Ministry propose to ask U.S. Department of Agriculture and Agriculture Universities to give grant and assist the Indian Scientists to develop yield per acre of Potatoes, Tomatoes and other Horticulture products to solve the problems of the farmers of Punjab and to help the Punjab Agro Industries to make Potato chips, tomato paste and fruit juice concentrate; and

(d) is it better to work and get a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture than to pay rupees 1 crore as Technical fees to Pepsi for helping the farmers of Punjab?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE